

Star Tribune: Downtown Minneapolis has been recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as one of the 19 best workplaces for commuters.

The agency cited Minneapolis for offering commuting benefits to downtown workers who don't drive alone to work. The city offers free parking in four municipal lots for registered car pools and van pools - a perk worth about \$42 to \$115 per month.

The city's Travel Demand Management Organization also works with employers to encourage employees to walk, bike, carpool and take the bus to work downtown. About 60 percent of the 160,000 who work downtown arrive by some means other than driving alone.

Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak will receive the award at noon today at the Commuter Connection in the U.S. Bank skyway.